Welcome and General Introduction

Welcome to the Common Core Academy where we will work together with our colleagues across the state in preparing for a thoughtful implementation of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, K-12.

"The Common Core State Standards were developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association center for Best Practices. These English language arts and mathematics standards represent a set of expectations for student knowledge and skills that high school graduates need to master to succeed in college and career. These standards reflect the invaluable feedback from the general public, teachers, leaders, parents, business leaders, states and content experts and are informed by the standards of other high performing nations. The college- and-career-readiness standards have been incorporated into the K-12 standards. The following criteria were used to develop the standards:

- Aligned with college and work expectations;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of the current state standards;
- Informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and,
- Evidence and/or research-based" (excerpt taken from the "Introduction to the Common Core State Standards").

The Common Core 2011 Academy

The fifty-six Common Core Academy facilitators from twenty-two districts and charters were selected from over one hundred applicants. The facilitators are teachers, district secondary English language arts specialists and instructional coaches whose expertise includes Special Education, Alternative Language Services, Gifted and Talented, and English Department leadership.

Each grade level team has been working together since the end of March on the design of the Common Core Academy for their grade level based on a USOE framework that was developed with input from the following stakeholders:

- The statewide Common Core Task Force which included members of the Utah State Board of Education and various USOE departments including Special Education, Title I and Assessment, universities, districts, and schools throughout the state;
- The statewide secondary Language Arts committee representing every district in the state as well as university partners;
- The curriculum directors' meetings;

 Representatives from Utah's Alternative Language Services departments in districts throughout the state who have been trained by the WIDA consortium (WIDA: World-class Instructional Design and Assessment) to support implementation of the English Language Proficiency standards as aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Resources and Documents Provided

At the Common Core Academy participants will receive and use several key documents and reference materials:

- 1. The complete copy of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts K-12 with Appendices A, B, and C;
- 2. A grade level specific resource booklet that includes:
 - The common core alignment documents and introduction written by Utah teachers for Utah educators;
 - Grade level curriculum maps with instructional units funded by the Gates foundation; and,
 - Overview documents for the WIDA English Language Proficiency standards, and the USOE implementation timeline for both math and English Language Arts.
- 3. A composition booklet for notes and reflective writing; and,
- 4. The participant guide by grade level for all four days with daily learner outcomes (To be downloaded from CCA website, see below).

Participant Preparation before the Common Core Academy:

• Please download the participant guide for your grade level to use during the academy at this USOE website:

http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/Common-Core-State-Standards-Resources/Common-Core-Academy-2011.aspx

 Please do a close reading of the actual Common Core State Standards and appendices before you attend the Common Core Academy at this website:

http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards

 Please bring a lesson or instructional unit that you will re-design during the four day academy based on your increased knowledge of the Common Core State Standards. We welcome each participant as a colleague who has valuable knowledge and expertise to share with other Utah educators.

Participants will receive two USOE credits through the On Track system toward relicensure.

Sustained Professional Learning for Educators

In August of 2011 the "Facilitators' Guide" for each grade level will be refined, based on our learning throughout the summer academy, and uploaded onto the Common Core Academy website for districts to use in the design of their own on-going professional development. This design is intended to support districts in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in secondary English language arts.

Lessons developed by teachers during the summer academy will also be uploaded for each grade level as a resource to be adapted and used across the state.